



Why do children come into care?

All parents want to do their best for their children but sometimes due to circumstances they are unable to meet their parenting responsibilities. When this happens, children have to be placed with another family while their parents receive the necessary help and support which will allow them to resume their primary parenting role. Any family can experience problems and need support to help them meet their parenting responsibilities

Some of the problems include: alcohol/drug abuse, difficulty coping, limited parenting skills, physical or mental health issues, domestic violence, physical abuse, sexual abuse and/or neglect. Children may also come into care for reasons other than those listed here.



Why become a Foster Family?

To make a difference in the lives of children and families.

I have seen the difference you can make in the lives of children and that is a good feeling. I don't regret one minute of my time as a foster parent even during the difficult periods. Go for it!

Nina

Foster Parent

It is one of the most rewarding, fulfilling experiences you could ever have. It's not an easy job but it is making a difference. It's not about changing the world but about helping one child at a time.

Fronie

Foster Parent

By working with child services and my child's foster family, I appreciate the powerful statement 'It takes a village to raise a child'.

Janet

Biological Mom

Every child needs a strong positive role model who believes in their potential. During one of the most difficult times of my life, my foster home provided me the tools which helped lead to many of the successes I have experienced in my life.

Teresa

Former youth in care

My experiences in foster care taught me that I am the person in control of my own life. I left care feeling empowered and capable of doing anything I wanted.

Anne

Former youth in care



Newfoundland & Labrador
Foster Families Association

**Foster Families are needed throughout
Newfoundland and Labrador**

please call the Newfoundland and Labrador Foster Families Association
Tel: 754-0213 Toll free: 877-754-0218
or call your local Child, Youth and Family Services office

www.nlffa.com

ROOM IN YOUR HEART



ROOM IN YOUR HOME





**"I need a temporary home.
Can you help me?"**

"My parents are not able to take care of me right now...We need you to take care of me until I am able to go back home to live. Any family can have problems sometimes, but that doesn't mean we don't love each other. We just need a little help."

How can you become a Foster Family?

You must:

- be at least 25 years old
- provide three community references
- have a clear certificate of conduct
- participate in an educational and assessment process (PRIDE)
- have room in your heart and room in your home for a child

A social worker will talk with you regarding any other requirements not listed here.

What is PRIDE?

PRIDE (Parents' Resources for Information, Development and Education) is an Educational and Assessment process which is usually offered over eight weeks. PRIDE gives you an understanding of the role of a foster parent so that you can make an informed decision and gives the social worker an opportunity to assess your suitability to be a foster family. If you are married or in a long-term relationship, your partner also has to complete this course.

The PRIDE Program identifies the following five essential skills you would need to be an effective foster parent. You must be able to:

- protect and nurture children
- meet children's developmental needs and address developmental delays
- support relationships between children and their families
- connect children to safe, nurturing relationships intended to last a lifetime, and
- work as a member of a professional team

Who can become a Foster Family?

- Single persons
- Couples
- Same sex couples
- Working families
- People who already have children.
- People with no other children in their home
- Grandparents
- YOU!

What is the role of a Foster Family?

Foster Families provide a nurturing, supportive home environment for children who are temporarily unable to live with their biological parents. While children enter the care of Child, Youth and Family Services for a variety of reasons, the plan is almost always reunification with their biological family. Being a foster parent means working as part of a team to ensure the best interests of children are met. The team includes the foster family, birth parents, child, social worker and any other person significant to the child.

Foster Parents know that caring for children is a community responsibility and they accept the important role of nurturing children and supporting families.

What types of Foster Homes are there?

There are three types of care provided by foster families; perhaps one of these situations could fit with your family?

Long term care (regular) provides a family environment for children on a daily basis for the duration of their stay in care.

Short term care provides overnight, weekend and respite care.

Relative/significant other care is provided by an adult(s) who the child already knows such as a relative, family friend, a friend's parents, etc.

What Matters?

"One hundred years from now, it will not matter what kind of car I drove, what kind of home I lived in, how much I had in my bank account nor what my clothes looked like. But the world may be a little better because I was important in the life of a child."

Author Unknown

